ADDING WEIGHT TO YOUR TESTIMONY #5 "Patience" 2 Peter 1:4-6

Intro: Image/Weightlifting. Weights are added to the performer until they can lift large amounts. So in Christian life; the testimony we bear is increased by the exercise of certain qualities, to give great weight for Gods kingdom.

I. The Wellness/Flesh

A. Nature example
1. Leopard/fastest creature
a. 70 MPH/unique facet.
1. Glandular Injections/adrenalin
2. Problem/Only short bursts
a. Must strategize/proximity

B. Noted/Biblical Example
1. Seed/Sower
a. ***Luke 8:6-7*** *6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.*
1. ***Luke 8:13*** *13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.*
2. ***Matthew 13:20-21*** *20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.*
2. Not/Long Haul
a. ***Galatians 6:9*** *9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*
1. ***2 Thessalonians 3:13*** *13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.*
2. ***Hebrews 12:1*** *1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*
3. Constant Theme-Bible
a. 10 foolish virgins
1. ***Matthew 25:1-3*** *1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,* (not prepared long term)
4. Issue Bible Faithfulness Over Long Haul
a. Parables pounds talents/inequality
1. One, Two, Five/do business come

II. Steadfastness

A. Present Failure
1. Employment, Marriage, Ministry
a. No stability/job
1. Divorce Epidemic
2. Undependable/Service
2. Social and spiritual chaos
a. Any difficulty/quit

B. Define Patience
1. Endurance, steadfastness, fortitude, perseverance
a. "Anyone can do time"
1. Uncertainty/takes its toll
2. Bible Admonition
a. ***Psalm 6:3*** *3 My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O LORD--how long?*

b. ***Psalm 13:1*** *[1] How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?*

3. Endure/The Issue

a. ***Mark 4:17*** *[17] and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.*

III. Several Facts

A. Trials/Life

1. Job: The great example

a. ***James 5:11*** *[11] Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.*

2. Afflictions

a. ***2 Corinthians 6:4*** *[4] But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,*

1. ***2 Timothy 3:11*** *[11] persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra--what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.*

3. Trials of your faith

a. ***James 1:3*** *[3] knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*

2. ***Hebrews 10:36*** *[36]For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*

3. ***Hebrews 6:5*** *[5] and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,*

B. Waiting/Greatest Test

1. Promise Lord Jesus/coming again

a. ***Psalm 37:7*** *[7] Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.*

b. ***James 5:7*** *[7] Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.*

c. ***2 Thessalonians 3:5*** *[5] Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.*

2. Deliberately coached uncertainty

a. ***Mark 13:22-33*** *[22] For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. [23] But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand. [24] "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; [25] the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26] Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. [27] And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven. [28] "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near--at the doors! [30] Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. [32] "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.*

1. ***Matthew 25:13*** *[13] Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

3. History/Example

a. John Wesley motto: “at it, still at it, always at it.”